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PART I—Orders and Notifications by the Governor of West Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury, etc.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Land & Land Reforms and Refugee, Relief & Rehabilitation Department

Establishment Branch, Nabanna

325, Sarat Chatterjee Road, P.O.-Shibpur, Howrah-711102

No. 1200-Estt. / 1E-02/2020-Apptt

Dated, Howrah, the 29th March, 2023

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the power conferred by the proviso to article 309 of the Constitution of India, the Governor is pleased hereby to make the following rules for constitution of the West Bengal Land Reforms Service under the administrative control of the Land and Land Reforms and Refugee Relief & Rehabilitation Department, Government of West Bengal :—

Rules

1. Short title and commencement. – (1) These rules may be called the West Bengal Land Reforms Service Rules, 2023.

(2) These rules shall be deemed to have come into force from the date of its publication in the *Kolkata Gazette*.

2. Definitions. – In these rules, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

- (a) “Appointing Authority”, in relation to the posts of the West Bengal Land Reforms Service, shall be the Governor;
- (b) “Government” means the Government of West Bengal;
- (c) “Service” means the West Bengal Land Reforms Service;
- (d) “SRO-I” means Special Revenue Officer, Grade-I;
- (e) “SRO-II” means Special Revenue Officer, Grade-II;
- (f) “RO” means Revenue Officer.

3. Constitution of Service.— A State Service is constituted in the name and style 'West Bengal Land Reforms Service' (WBLRS) under the administrative control of the Land and Land Reforms and Refugee Relief & Rehabilitation Department with a strength not exceeding 734 posts, by absorption of all existing 212 posts in the cadre of Special Revenue Officer, Grade-I (SRO-I) and upgradation and absorption of not more than 522 posts of the cadre of Special Revenue Officer, Grade-II (SRO-II) according to seniority in the existing Gradation List. Among total 869 sanctioned posts of SRO-II, (869-522) =347 posts of SRO-II will act as feeder to this State Service.

4. Distribution of posts in the West Bengal Land Reforms Service.— From the date of constitution of the Service, 734 posts in the West Bengal Land Reforms Service shall be distributed in the following pay Levels under WBS(ROPA) Rules, 2019:—

Sl. No.	Pay scale under ROPA,2009	Pay scale under ROPA,2019	No. of Posts
1.	Pre-revised scale No. 16(PB 4A) Grade Pay Rs. 5,400/-	Pay Level 16 Rs. (56,100-1,44,300/-)	440
2.	Pre-revised scale No. 17 (PB 4A) Grade Pay Rs. 6600/-	Pay Level 17 Rs. (67,300-1,73,200/-)	220
3.	Pre-revised scale No. 18 (PB 4B) Grade Pay Rs. 7600/-	Pay Level 19 Rs. (95,100-1,98,000/-)	74

5. Sanctioned strength of SRO-I and SRO-II after constitution of the West Bengal Land Reforms Service.— From the date of constitution of the West Bengal Land Reforms Service, there will be no cadre of SRO-I and the sanctioned strength of SRO-II shall become (869-522)=347.

6. Option to SRO-II to join the West Bengal Land Reforms Service.— From the date of constitution of WBLRS, the remaining posts in the cadre of Special Revenue Officer Grade-II (SRO-II) will be the feeder post for both the WBLRS and WBCS(Exe.). A person holding a post in the SRO-II on the date of constitution of the WBLRS, if not absorbed in the same on the date of constitution of the WBLRS, shall have to exercise one time option for being considered for promotion to either the WBCS (Exe.) or to the WBLRS within 90 days from the date of publication of the rules and such option once exercised, shall be final and binding on him. Persons entering into the cadre of SRO-II in future shall have to exercise option as stated above in this para within 90 days of such entry.

7. Fixation of pay after constitution of the West Bengal Land Reforms Service.— After induction to the West Bengal Land Reforms Service, the pay of each officer shall be fitted/fixed to the same cell of the appropriate Level as that of his existing pay and in absence of such cell, pay shall be fixed to the next higher cell.

8. Posts in different levels of the West Bengal Land Reforms Service and criteria of filling up of such posts.—

Post in the rank of	Scale No. Under RoPA, 2009 (pre-revised) & under ROPA, 2019	Feeder post with Scale No.	Period in feeder/ immediate Lower post/scale	Remarks
Assistant Director	Basic Grade, Pre-revised Scale No. 16 (440 posts) Revised Pay Level 16 under ROPA, 2019	SRO-II in Pre-revised Scale No. 15	RO+SRO-II (8 years)	All promotions are subject to availability of vacancy in the concerned promotional cadre post
Deputy Director	Pre-revised Scale No. 17 (220 posts) Revised Pay Level 17 under ROPA, 2019	Assistant Director in Pre-revised Scale No. 16	5 years in the Pre-revised Scale No.16 (functional / non-functional)	
Joint Director	Pre-revised Scale No. 18 (74 posts) Revised Pay Level 19 under ROPA,2019	Deputy Director in Pre-revised Scale No. 17	5 years in the Pre-revised Scale No.17 (functional / non-functional)	

9. Posting/Transfer/Placement.— The Department of Land & Land Reforms and Refugee Relief & Rehabilitation will be the Cadre Controlling Authority of the West Bengal Land Reforms Service and will make initial appointment of officers in the service and issue order of promotion within the Department. Promotion from the post of Assistant Director to the post of Deputy Director and thereafter to the post of Joint Director will be done on the basis of seniority cum merit through Departmental Promotional Committee.

10. Filling up of vacancies in the West Bengal Land Reforms Service for first three years.— For first 3 (three) years, vacancy in Pre-revised scale No 16 will be filled up by absorption as per current Gradation list of SRO-I and SRO-II, subject to availability of vacancy and fulfillment of required benchmark of ACR/SAR as indicated at item 12 below, Integrity Certificate and Vigilance Clearance.

Provided that the officers who have already completed 5 years in Scale No. 16 (functional and non-functional) will be absorbed in Scale No. 17 and officers who have already completed 5 years in Scale No. 17 (functional and non-functional) will be absorbed in Pay Level 19, respectively in the posts of the said Service.

11. Filling up of vacancies in the West Bengal Land Reforms Service after three years.— From the Fourth (4th) year, not more than 80% of vacancy in entry level (Pre-revised Scale No. 16) will be filled up by promotion as per existing Gradation list of SRO-II, subject to fulfillment of required benchmark of ACR/SAR and other conditions and remaining 20% of the vacant posts as on 1st January of every year will be filled up by direct recruitment on the basis of results of the West Bengal Civil Service (Exe.) etc. Examination for Group-A posts and services conducted by the Public Service Commission, West Bengal;

12. Benchmark for promotion to higher scales/levels from immediate lower scale/level.—

Number of Old & New Formats of ACR/SAR to be considered	Minimum rating required for Absorption/promotion/movement to pay scale no./pay level		
	Unrevised Pay Scale-16 Revised Pay Level-16	Unrevised Pay Scale-17 Revised Pay Level-17	Unrevised Pay Scale-18 Revised Pay Level-19
5 ACRs	1.80	1.80	2.20
4 ACRs + 1 SAR	2.34	2.34	2.86
3 ACRs + 2 SARs	2.88	2.88	3.52
2 ACRs + 3 SARs	3.42	3.42	4.18
1 ACR + 4 SARs	3.96	3.96	4.84
5 SARs	4.50	4.50	5.50

13. Determination of Seniority.— The relative Inter se seniority of the officers appointed to the post in the Service against the vacancies in any particular year shall be determined on the basis of the result of the examination conducted by West Bengal Public Service Commission and according to the provision of the West Bengal Services (Determination of Seniority) Rules, 1981.

14. Publication of Cadre Schedule.— Detailed cadre schedule in respect to WBLRS in different pre-revised scales shall be published by the Administrative Department in consultation with P&AR Department after publication of this Service rules.

15. Transfer, posting, deputation etc.— Transfer, posting, deputation etc. of all the officers, who have been absorbed in the West Bengal Land Reforms Service, under these rules will be dealt by the Land & Land Reforms and Refugee Relief & Rehabilitation Department henceforth.

16. Interpretation.— If any question arises relating to the interpretation of these rules, it shall be referred to the Government in the Department of Land & Land Reforms and Refugee Relief & Rehabilitation Department and the decision of the said Department shall be final and binding upon all the officers of the West Bengal Land Reforms Service.

By order of the Governor,

SMARAKI MAHAPATRA

*Land Reforms Commissioner &
Secretary to the Government of West Bengal*